

What is claimed is:

*Sub*  
*Pat*  
1 Claim 1. In an emulation engine comprised of a plurality of  
2 modules, a work station, and a maintenance bus for  
3 transferring data between the work station and said modules,  
4 each of said modules including a plurality of module  
5 processors and a module main memory unit accessible for data  
6 transfers during an emulation by each of said plurality of  
7 processors, each of said processors having a control store  
8 to store a programmable sequence of emulation steps that  
9 define logic states for its processor, a method to allow  
10 data transfers between said module main memory unit and said  
11 work station without interrupting an in progress emulation,  
12 including the steps of:

13 compiling said programmable sequence of emulation steps  
14 to include, in at least one step, a blocking code that is  
15 decoded, when the step is read from the control store, as a  
16 disable command between the plurality of module processors  
17 and said module main memory;

18 decoding said blocking code and, in response thereto,  
19 blocking transfers between the plurality of module  
20 processors and said module main memory; and

21 transferring data between said work station and said  
22 module main memory while transfers between the plurality of  
23 module processors and said module main memory are blocked.

1 Claim 2. A method to allow data transfers between said  
2 module main memory unit and said work station as in claim 1  
3 further including the step of unblocking transfers between  
4 the plurality of module processors and said module main  
5 memory when the step is decoded that is next in the sequence  
6 after said step that includes said blocking code.

*July 2*  
Claim 3. A method to allow data transfers between said  
module main memory unit and said work station as in claim 1  
wherein said programmable sequence is repeated and said  
decoding and transferring steps are repeated with each  
repetition of said programmable sequence.

Claim 4. A method to allow data transfers between said  
module main memory unit and said work station as in claim 2  
wherein said programmable sequence is repeated and said  
decoding and transferring steps are repeated with each  
repetition of said programmable sequence.

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